

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A method of determining~~An article of manufacture storing computer readable instructions ~~thereon to determine~~ authenticity of a license associated with a protectable content, the ~~method~~article of manufacture comprising:

~~instructions to accessing~~ a license profile associated with the protectable content, the license profile identifying attributes affecting at least one operation of the protectable content;

~~instructions to accessing~~ a content identifier representing the protectable content, wherein the protectable content corresponds to a software element associated with a license;

~~instructions to compute~~computing a license identifier based, at least in part, on the accessed license profile and the accessed content identifier, the computed license identifier comprising information concerning the license associated with the protectable content;

~~instructions to store~~storing the license identifier;

~~instructions to transmitting~~ the stored license identifier over a network for subsequent distribution with the protectable content;

~~instructions to receive~~receiving a request message comprising a license identifier over a network to authenticate the received license identifier; and

~~instructions to compare~~comparing the received license identifier with a corresponding stored license identifier to determine the authenticity of the received license identifier.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~method~~article of manufacture of claim 2, wherein the software element is compliant with an open source definition.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~method~~article of manufacture of claim 2, wherein the attributes correspond to at least one of a software code format, a software naming convention, a software code annotation, a warranty, a reverse-engineering activity, a patent litigation activity, a

standards body, a violation of intellectual property rights, and a textual description of at least one aspect of the protectable content.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~A method of determining~~An article of manufacture storing computer readable instructions thereon to determine authenticity of a license associated with a protectable content, the ~~method~~article of manufacture comprising:

instructions to accessing a license profile associated with the protectable content, the license profile identifying attributes affecting at least one operation of the protectable content;

instructions to accessing a content identifier representing the protectable content, wherein the protectable content corresponds to at least one of a multimedia presentation, a video segment, an audio segment, a textual representation, a work of art, a visual representation, a technological know-how, a business know-how, and a contract right associated with a license;

instructions to compute~~computing~~ a license identifier based, at least in part, on the accessed license profile and the accessed content identifier, the computed license identifier comprising information concerning the license associated with the protectable content;

instructions to store~~storing~~ the license identifier;

instructions to transmitting the stored license identifier over a network for subsequent distribution with the protectable content;

instructions to receive~~receiving~~ a request message comprising a license identifier over a network to authenticate the received license identifier; and

instructions to compare~~comparing~~ the received license identifier with a corresponding stored license identifier to determine the authenticity of the received license identifier.

Claims 6–27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): The ~~method~~article of manufacture of claim 2 further comprising instructions to transmitting a reply message concerning the authenticity of the license identifier.